



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Dramatic Drop in Missouri Unemployment Reflected in Metro Areas, Counties

JEFFERSON CITY _ Unemployment fell sharply in Missouri's metropolitan areas and counties in August when the state posted the largest percentage job increase in the country and was second in the actual number of new jobs created.

Missouri's percentage increase in employment last month was 0.6 percent -- tops in the nation - while the 15,500 new jobs created in August in the Show Me State was second only to California's 17,200. Missouri's overall unemployment rate dropped a full point from a seasonally adjusted 5.6 percent in July to 4.6 percent in August.

The largest unemployment rate decrease last month among metropolitan areas was in the Missouri portion of St. Louis, where the rate fell by 1.5 points from July to 4.6. All the other metropolitan areas had decreases of at least eight-tenths of a point. Over-the-year decreases were somewhat larger, ranging from 0.9 percentage points in Jefferson City to 1.8 percentage points in the Missouri portion of the Kansas City metropolitan area.

"More Missourians are finding good job opportunities in our cities and counties and that is good news for our economy and our quality of life," Gov. Matt Blunt said. "In the last eight months, more than 50,000 new jobs have been created and unemployment has fallen to its lowest level in four years. I will keep working to ensure that our state continues to create quality jobs and economic opportunities."

Micropolitan area jobless rates in Missouri in August also fell with the over-the-month decreases ranging from 0.8 in Branson and Maryville to 2.5 in Farmington. Among counties not in metropolitan or micropolitan areas, the largest decrease was in Gasconade County at 3.4 points, while Linn County's 0.2-point decrease was the smallest. Among all counties, Boone County's 2.8 percent jobless rate was the lowest while Linn County had the highest jobless rate at 8.1 percent.

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Most metropolitan areas saw relatively little change in non-farm payroll employment in August as some summer activities wound down and school employment had not yet regained full levels. St. Louis and Kansas City were the exceptions as automobile plants returned to production from model changeover layoffs in July. In Kansas City, employment was up by 1,400 jobs over the month as the manufacturing gains were partly offset by a decrease of 1,800 jobs in local government. In St. Louis, the gain was 8,000 jobs with seasonal gains in employment services and some increases in local government contributing to the increase.

Employment was down by 1,200 jobs in Springfield, mostly in local government. There was little change from July in Columbia, Jefferson City, Joplin, and St. Joseph.

Over the past year, employment growth has ranged from 0.4 percent in Joplin and St. Joseph to 2.2 percent in Columbia. Accommodation and food service employment provided the largest gain in Columbia. In both Joplin and St. Joseph, small gains were noted in health care and social assistance.

St. Louis metropolitan employment was up by 13,400 jobs or 1 percent over the past 12 months. Gains occurred in machinery manufacturing, professional and business services, health care and social assistance eating and drinking places, and church-based social and recreational programs. In Kansas City, employment grew by 11,200 jobs or 1.2 percent. Construction, retail, real estate, hospitals and other health care, eating and drinking places, church-based social and recreation programs and local government all contributed to the growth.

In Springfield, over-the-year growth was 1.7 percent or 3,100 jobs. Private educational and health services added 1,300 jobs with gains of 800 jobs reported in both local government and leisure and hospitality. Growth in health services and business services contributed to the 600-job increase in Jefferson City employment over the past 12 months.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN AND MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS AND SINGLE-COUNTY LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs)
CURRENT MONTH (AUGUST 2005), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (JUNE AND JULY 2005), AND YEAR AGO (AUGUST 2004)

	AUG 2005	JUL 2005	JUN 2005	AUG 2004		AUG 2005	JUL 2005	JUN 2005	AUG 2004
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U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	4.9	5.2	5.2	5.4	MEXICO (Audrain Co.)	4.9	6.0	6.3	6.3
MISSOURI	4.5	5.6	5.7	6.0	MOBERLY (Randolph Co.)	4.8	6.6	6.1	6.0
<u>METROPOLITAN AREAS</u>					POPLAR BLUFF (Butler Co.)	4.5	5.8	5.8	5.9
COLUMBIA MSA	2.9	3.8	4.1	4.0	ROLLA (Phelps Co.)	3.3	4.8	4.8	4.5
Boone	2.8	3.8	4.1	4.0	SEDALIA (Pettis. Co.)	5.1	6.3	6.4	6.7
Howard	3.9	4.9	5.2	5.0	SIKESTON (Scott Co.)	5.1	6.3	6.4	6.5
JEFFERSON CITY MSA	3.8	4.8	4.9	4.7	WARRENSBURG (Johnson Co.)	3.8	5.1	5.2	5.4
Callaway	3.9	5.0	5.3	4.9	WEST PLAINS (Howell Co.)	4.0	4.9	5.3	5.6
Cole	3.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	QUINCY (MO PT - Lewis Co.)	4.1	4.6	4.7	4.4
Moniteau	4.0	5.0	5.1	4.7	KEOKUK (MO PT - Clark Co.)	5.6	6.0	5.5	6.1
Osage	4.7	5.6	5.3	5.6	<u>SINGLE COUNTY LMAs</u>				
JOPLIN MSA	4.1	5.1	5.5	5.6	Atchison	4.3	4.8	5.1	4.8
Jasper	3.8	4.9	5.3	5.3	Barry	4.1	5.2	5.6	5.2
Newton	4.7	5.6	5.9	6.1	Barton	4.2	5.0	5.5	4.8
KANSAS CITY MSA	5.0	5.8	5.9	6.3	Benton	4.4	5.5	5.6	6.1
KANSAS CITY MSA (MO PT)	4.8	5.7	5.7	6.6	Camden	3.5	4.2	4.7	4.7
Bates	4.5	5.7	6.1	7.0	Carroll	4.5	5.7	5.7	5.6
Caldwell	4.5	6.4	6.0	5.9	Carter	4.6	6.1	6.2	6.3
Cass	4.2	4.9	5.1	5.8	Cedar	4.9	6.2	6.5	6.3
Clay	3.8	4.9	4.7	5.1	Chariton	5.2	5.9	5.7	6.8
Clinton	4.4	5.9	5.1	6.2	Cooper	3.8	4.9	5.1	5.5
Jackson	5.4	6.3	6.4	7.4	Crawford	4.6	6.9	6.1	6.2
Lafayette	4.3	5.8	5.6	6.2	Dade	4.6	5.6	5.9	5.9
Platte	3.5	4.4	4.4	4.6	Daviess	3.9	5.0	4.9	5.5
Ray	4.4	6.3	5.6	6.5	Dent	5.4	7.1	7.1	6.4
ST. JOSEPH MSA	4.7	5.7	5.9	6.2	Douglas	4.8	5.6	8.4	5.8
ST. JOSEPH MSA (MO PT)	4.6	5.6	5.9	6.1	Gasconade	4.2	7.6	5.9	6.4
Andrew	4.2	5.0	5.3	5.1	Gentry	4.0	4.7	4.9	4.9
Buchanan	4.7	5.7	6.1	6.4	Grundy	4.5	5.6	5.9	6.2
DeKalb	4.5	6.0	6.1	6.0	Harrison	4.4	5.3	5.3	4.9
ST. LOUIS MSA	4.9	6.0	5.8	6.3	Henry	4.8	6.2	6.4	6.7
ST. LOUIS MSA (MO PT)	4.6	6.1	5.8	6.1	Hickory	6.1	7.7	8.0	8.9
Franklin	4.4	7.4	5.7	5.7	Holt	3.7	4.5	4.9	4.7
Jefferson	4.3	6.5	5.4	5.6	Iron	5.9	7.6	7.7	8.6
Lincoln	4.0	5.6	5.3	5.4	Knox	3.1	4.4	4.5	4.5
St. Charles	3.3	4.5	4.4	4.3	Lawrence	3.8	4.9	5.1	5.1
St. Louis Co.	4.4	5.6	5.5	5.7	Linn	8.1	8.3	7.6	9.0
Warren	4.1	5.5	5.3	5.1	Livingston	3.8	4.7	5.2	5.2
Washington	6.6	9.7	8.0	7.7	Macon	4.3	5.2	5.2	5.8
St. Louis City	7.6	8.7	8.8	10.2	Madison	5.2	7.0	6.6	6.4
SPRINGFIELD MSA	3.4	4.3	4.7	4.7	Maries	4.4	5.7	5.4	6.2
Christian	3.2	3.9	4.2	4.4	Mercer	3.8	4.6	4.7	5.7
Dallas	3.9	4.9	5.2	5.5	Miller	4.0	5.1	5.3	5.7
Greene	3.3	4.1	4.7	4.7	Mississippi	6.3	8.0	7.6	8.3
Polk	3.9	5.5	5.9	5.1	Monroe	4.3	5.7	6.2	6.1
Webster	3.9	4.8	5.2	5.1	Montgomery	4.6	6.2	6.1	6.6
FAYETTEVILLE MSA (MO PT - McDonald Co)	3.8	4.7	5.0	5.1	Morgan	4.7	5.7	6.2	5.9
<u>MICROPOLITAN AREAS</u>					New Madrid	6.8	8.2	8.2	9.5
BRANSON	4.4	5.2	5.7	5.7	Oregon	4.2	5.9	6.2	5.9
Stone	4.1	4.8	5.7	5.6	Ozark	4.1	5.1	5.9	6.4
Taney	4.6	5.4	5.7	5.7	Pemiscot	7.2	8.9	9.3	9.8
CAPE GIRARDEAU	4.2	5.2	5.5	5.6	Perry	3.3	4.5	4.8	4.3
CAPE GIRARDEAU (MO PT)	3.8	4.9	5.1	5.1	Pike	4.2	5.4	5.7	5.7
Bollinger	4.4	6.0	6.2	5.8	Putnam	3.9	4.5	4.8	5.1
Cape Girardeau	3.8	4.7	4.9	5.0	Reynolds	5.7	7.2	7.6	8.4
FARMINGTON (St. Francois Co.)	4.8	7.3	6.5	6.8	Ripley	5.2	7.3	7.0	6.3
FT. LEONARD WOOD (Pulaski Co.)	4.0	5.3	5.7	5.7	St. Clair	4.2	5.7	6.1	6.7
HANNIBAL	4.1	5.7	5.6	5.7	Ste. Genevieve	4.2	6.1	6.1	5.7
Marion	4.0	5.7	5.6	5.8	Scotland	3.1	4.2	4.5	4.0
Ralls	4.2	5.7	5.6	5.3	Shannon	5.6	6.5	7.2	7.6
KENNETT (Dunklin Co.)	6.5	7.9	8.0	8.2	Shelby	4.4	5.6	5.4	5.7
KIRKSVILLE	3.7	5.0	5.2	5.4	Stoddard	4.7	6.6	6.1	6.2
Adair	3.5	4.9	5.2	5.3	Sullivan	5.1	6.2	6.0	6.3
Schuyler	4.8	5.7	5.3	5.9	Texas	5.4	6.2	6.6	7.0
LEBANON (Laclede Co.)	4.6	5.7	5.8	7.2	Vernon	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.9
MARSHALL (Saline Co.)	4.8	5.9	5.7	5.8	Wayne	5.6	7.3	7.4	7.3
MARYVILLE (Nodaway Co.)	3.3	4.1	4.2	4.0	Worth	3.1	3.8	4.2	5.4
					Wright	5.6	6.6	7.4	7.3

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